

SUMMER 2005

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MUSKET

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The Maryland Musket is produced quarterly in the interest of the members of the Maryland Army National Guard, using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment of the Maryland Army National Guard. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, or the Army National Guard. Printed Circulation: 1,000.

Sgt. Shawn Munson, a nuclear, biological, and chemical specialist with the 32nd CST, inspects the perimiter of a building at Camp Fretterd for contaminants during a training exercise.

(Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum)

ExpandingInfantry Skills

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jon Soucy



vt. Kevin Robbins held the green detonation cord in his hand as he slowly wrapped it around the explosive charge. Once the cord was neatly wrapped around the charge and other details were in place, Robbins placed it on the ground and tied the free end of the cord into a main detonation cord that would set off several charges simultaneously. For Robbins, an infantryman with C Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, this was one of the best parts of learning how to work with explosives—the chance to blow something up.

Robbins, and other Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (Light), spent two weekends recently at Fort A.P. Hill, Va, training to use explosives, as well as other skills, as part of the Army's new multi-functional Squad concept, a program that augments the skills of an infantry squad by training Soldiers in the squad on things like explosives, combat lifesaver skills and advanced rifle marksmanship, as well as other common task skills that all Soldiers in the Army must know.

"This is the Army's new concept in fighting," said Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin Wright, sergeant major for 3rd Brigade, 29th Infantry Division (Light). "We want our squads to be self-contained. We want to have a squad-designated marksman who can engage the enemy with accuracy. We want to give our Soldiers within the squad a little bit of demo training, so that if they needed to breach an obstacle, that squad is self-contained and can take care of itself."

That ability to be self-contained gives Soldiers an advantage on the battlefield.

"This is new," said Spc. John Gray, an infantryman with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, of the MFS concept. "With the changing environment [of the battlefield] they need us trained and prepared for whatever we're going to come across."



ExpandingInfantry Skills



(continued from page 5)

And the battlefield is where many aspects of the MFS program originated, specifically the squad-designated marksman portion where Soldiers are trained to engage targets between 300 and 500 meters, bridging the gap between the basic rifleman and a sniper.

"Right now in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan they're utilizing the SDM in this new multifunctional squad situation," said 2nd Lt. Kelly Carey, a platoon leader with E Company, 115th Infantry Regiment (Anti-Armor) who oversaw the SDM training at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

As part of the MFS training, each squad sent different individuals to different portions of the training, with some training on using explosives, others on combat lifesaver skills and others on additional skills. The Soldiers who received the training will pass on what they have learned dur-

ing regular monthly drills so each member of the team is familiar with the tasks.

"That's the beauty of the multi-functional concept," said Wright. "I [as a squad member] now have ownership, so I'm responsible within that squad to make sure that everyone in that squad is going to be able to do my job in case something happens to me or I'm not able to perform my mission in the squad. So the ownership, and that's where the NCO portion comes in, the ownership is on each individual to make it happen for their own squad."

Many initially viewed the training as a normal training event, but they soon discovered it was a bit more in-depth, specifically with the marksmanship training.

"I think [the Soldiers] originally came into this program thinking it was just going to be another zero range," said Carey. "It's not that at all. It's very basics-intensive. Each of the instructors

goes Soldier to Soldier and coaches them and teaches them."

And focusing on the basics was a way to add to the rifleman's skills.

"It's a little more advanced," said Sgt. Richard Caudill, of C Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment. "But all of it is basic rifle marksmanship. It's nothing more than what they train you on down in basic or in infantry school. It's just refining the basics."

The in-depth instruction wasn't limited to the range, and that level of instruction benefited not only those going through the training, but those conducting the training as well.

"The best way to learn a skill is to have to teach it," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Cahill, medical platoon sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, who oversaw the Combat Lifesaver training. "I gave the introductory course and I'm giving a class on medevac procedures, and that's it. My medics are teaching the rest of it. This way, not only do they get experience instructing, but since they have to know the material very well in order to teach it, it builds their confidence and their knowledge and their skills for what they need to do."

After going through the training, many felt that the MFS concept to be a positive that would help

them in real-world missions.

"It makes people more effective in the field," said Sgt. Larry Hayes, of C Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment, of the training. "I think that's what people need. They need to trust in their buddies and make sure they know they can get the job done. We're infantry, and that's what we do."

And others agreed.

"If we need to clear a path, we don't have to call in someone else," said Robbins, referring to one way that the demolition training could be put to use. "We can just clear the path and keep moving."

And that is one of the purposes of the MFS concept.

"I think the concept is one of allowing the units to be more flexible," said Carey. "And to actually react in a more fluid environment."

But for Robbins, the ability to react fluidly probably wasn't on his mind as he stood inside a bunker after the fuse had been pulled on the explosives. As the ensuing blast tore apart the silent stillness of the morning and violently threw bits and pieces of earth in the air, Robbins stood inside the bunker with a slight smile on his face, clearly enjoying the chance to blow something up.

Sgt. Matt Frick, an infantryman with A Company, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment, applies a field dressing during combat lifesaver training at Fort A.P. Hill.





Medics Learn the Steps

Story and Photos: Sgt. Rob Barker

1: Identify It



Staff Sgt. Calvin Weems, a medic with B Company (Medical) of the 729th Support Battalion, practices probing for land mines during a three-day training exercise at the Baker Training Site in Western Maryland.

2: Mark It

Spc. Donnel Faison, a medic with B Company, pulls flags out of a storage tube before using them to practice marking land mines.



3: Call It In

1st Lt. Hajja Sahid-Hicks, a platoon leader with the unit, practices calling in a report about a minestrike.





top, drop and roll" is a phrase that is easy enough for children to learn and remember. It stays in their minds, and if there ever is an emergency, they know what to do. "Identify it, mark it and report it" is an equally important phrase which helps Soldiers remember what to do if they encounter a land mine.

Members of B Company (Medical), 729th Support Battalion, recently trained using this motto as a rule of thumb during a three-day exercise at the Baker Training Site in Western Maryland.

"We are giving the Soldiers some awareness of mines and unexploded ordinance commonly found overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Maj. Bill Wall, the company's commander. "We are giving them an introduction on what mines look like, what mine signs and identifiers would be and what to do if they discover one."

The unit is trying to teach the medically inclined Soldiers to not go on impulse if a mine is discovered.

"If you see a Soldier out there a hundred meters who just lost his foot, you can't just run out there with your [aid] bag," said Wall. "A medic's first instinct when someone gets hurt is to run and help them, and we are training them to get out of that mind set when dealing with mines. The fear is that if they did that, I would lose one or two or three medics in the process."

Wall said the medics would have more to think about in that situation than just the injured Soldier.

"There has to be thought on how to enter that mine field," he said. "They have to probe their way in and probe around the Soldier because there may be another mine close to or under that Soldier that has not gone off."

For most of the medical unit's personnel, this training was a new experience, but for some it was very familiar.

"This is very similar to what we learned before going to Iraq," said Spc. Michael Baugher, a combat medic who recently joined the unit after returning from two tours there.

Baugher used his previous experience to help the Catonsville-based unit prepare the training site, and during the exercise he offered some advise to his fellow Soldiers.

"Pay attention to the smallest things. Whether it's a soda can or a pile of rocks, you have to be aware of everything," he said. "You never know if it is unexploded ordinance or an improvised explosive device."

Baugher also advised using caution.

"If you ever come across something that you think is suspicious, do not approach the item. Secure the area and call [explosive ordinance disposal]," he said.

Sgt. Alice Johnson also recently joined the unit after returning from overseas. She said the exercise provided a good refresher on what she learned before going to Iraq.

"There are a few ins and outs and a couple of things I've forgotten," she said, "but it all comes back to you when you're training."

Johnson, an officer with the Baltimore City Police Department, also compared the exercise to what she learns during her civilian job.

"As police officers we are trainied to work the same way," she said. "We get calls throughout the day for suspicious packages and items."

Johnson also had some advise.

"Pay attention because one day you may save someone's life." she said.

The Soldiers listened and put their primary military occupational specialties and medical task training aside for the weekend due to the growing importance of mine awareness.

"This is something that is not MOS specific," said Wall. "Every Soldier needs to know this, especially with the growing number of explosive related deaths."

Wall recently returned from a deployment in Afghanistan.

"I've seen what a mine can do to a person, and these Soldiers have to be prepared for that," he said.





CRITICAL ESPONSE

32ND CIVIL SUPPORT
TEAM: A UNIQUE UNIT
WITH AN IMPORTANT
MISSION.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. SEAN McCollum

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bolts, a disaster preparedness specialist with the 32nd CST, inspects the entry into a building at Camp Fretterd for contaminants during a training exercise.

DRITTOAL INSPONSI

or a brief moment, there were anthrax labs on Camp Fretterd. Beakers, tubes, terrorist handbooks, and other suspicious materials were found in a building which two men had just fled.

Thankfully it was only a scenario set up for the Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), a unit of full-time Army and Air Guard members that train to assist civilian authorities in detecting and containing nuclear, chemical, and biological agents. It was a cold day in March when the unit conducted this exercise at Camp Fretterd.

Setting up their mobile command center in a parking lot upwind from the target area to shield themselves from any possible fallout, members of the unit laid down plastic tarps and assembled decontamination showers to clean off anyone who might have been in the building.

The survey team, wearing protective gear that looked like moon-suits, investigated the target building with NBC detectors. After surveying the outside of the building, the two followed their instruments to a room containing the hazardous material. They worked quickly to contain the material and safely moved it to the team's mobile analytical laboratory.

1st Sgt. Arnold O'Sullivan, the unit first sergeant who is from Bel Air, Md., said that moving the samples to the lab is done in order to provide untainted analysis for proof in a court of law before the samples are shipped off to the relevant state or federal labs when evidence is needed against the perpetrators of a terrorist attack.

"[The samples] go from the survey guys to our analytical lab," O'Sullivan said. "From our analytical lab, they could go to Fort Detrick, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, FBI, or they could go to the state crime lab."

This training exercise was one of the unit's first, said Lt. Col. Bill Stevenson, the commander of the 32nd CST who is from Owings, Md., and the concept of a full-time, federally funded military response unit is relatively new. A pilot program creating a weapons of mass destruction planning team began in Maryland in 1997, and the first 10 CSTs were created in different states in 2000, with future plans to place one in every state and US territory. Most members of the 32nd were attached to the unit in August 2004.

The Soldiers and airmen of the 32nd are highly trained. O'Sullivan said, depending on their job specialty, team members can receive up to 1200 hours of training from such agencies as the FBI, CIA, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and National Fire Academy in their first year in addition to their military occupational specialty training. Soldiers drill every day within their different sections and perform unit-wide exercises on drill weekends.

That training is just the warm-up.

"The next step is really important and that's when we start exercising with the civil authorities," said Stevenson, who has been with the team since May 2004 but has worked with similar WMD teams since the pilot program began in 1997. "Our whole mission is to go out and support the local authorities in their activities on the scene," he said.

The element of civilian support is crucial, Stevenson said. One reason is that the CST is not a "first responder." While it can be ready to deploy within 90 minutes, the team responds when they are called to a scene by first-responding civilian authorities who need military expertise. When they are called, Stevenson said he believes the countless hours of training will bring needed military proficiency to the scene.

He also said he plans to expand that know-how by finding ways for the unit members to train at Maryland's world-class biotech facilities located at Fort Detrick, in Edgewood, and at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center. This training is a priority, Stevenson said, to fulfill the part he envisions for his team.

"Our role really has to be to bring that higher level of technical expertise to the scene," he said.

But all of that comes later. No matter how much they train in the future, on a cold day in March the unit would have to settle for their already vast amounts of training to thwart Camp Fretterd's terrorist threat.



Anti-Hackers



1st Lt. John Wesley Cook, an information analyst with the Joint Web Risk Assessment Cell, searches the Internet for sensitive information. The unit's mission is to find sensitive information that should not be publicly available.



n a dimly lit room somewhere in Baltimore there are five people hunched over computers, their faces lit by the low light from the monitors as they hunt the Internet for vital military secrets that can be used to harm Soldiers around the world. These five people are the Maryland Army National Guard's Joint Web Risk Assessment Cell and their job is to find this information before it winds up in the hands of someone who is not supposed to have it.

The purpose of the JWRAC is to find and analyze information terrorists might use to harm troops or our nation. The pieces of information that the team finds on the web may not make sense separately, but when they are combined they can create a picture, just like a puzzle, said Maj. Wally Scholl.

While this unit is a team that works together to find potentially dangerous information, each individual also has a specialized role.

Scholl is the boss of the unit. She analyzes data and makes sure the usual military requirements are met, such as weapons qualification. She currently resides in Brinklow, Md., and works with the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Capt. William John Caciappo is the unit's technical expert. If a computer has a problem, it's his job to fix it. Caciappois lives in Johnsville, Md., and owns his own computer company.

Capt. Joseph Weis is the scribe. He records the information the unit finds and writes the reports on why the material should be removed, said Scholl. Weiss is from Wilmington, Del. and is a patent attorney.

1st Lt. John Wesley Cook is from Laurel, Md. He is a systems engineer and contributes to the team by analyzing data.

Sgt.1st Class Jeffery Todd Jones is from Elkridge, Md. His civilian job is a system analyst, and like most sergeants he helps keep the team focused. Scholl said Jones is the one who most often asks, "What does this have to do with what we are looking at?"

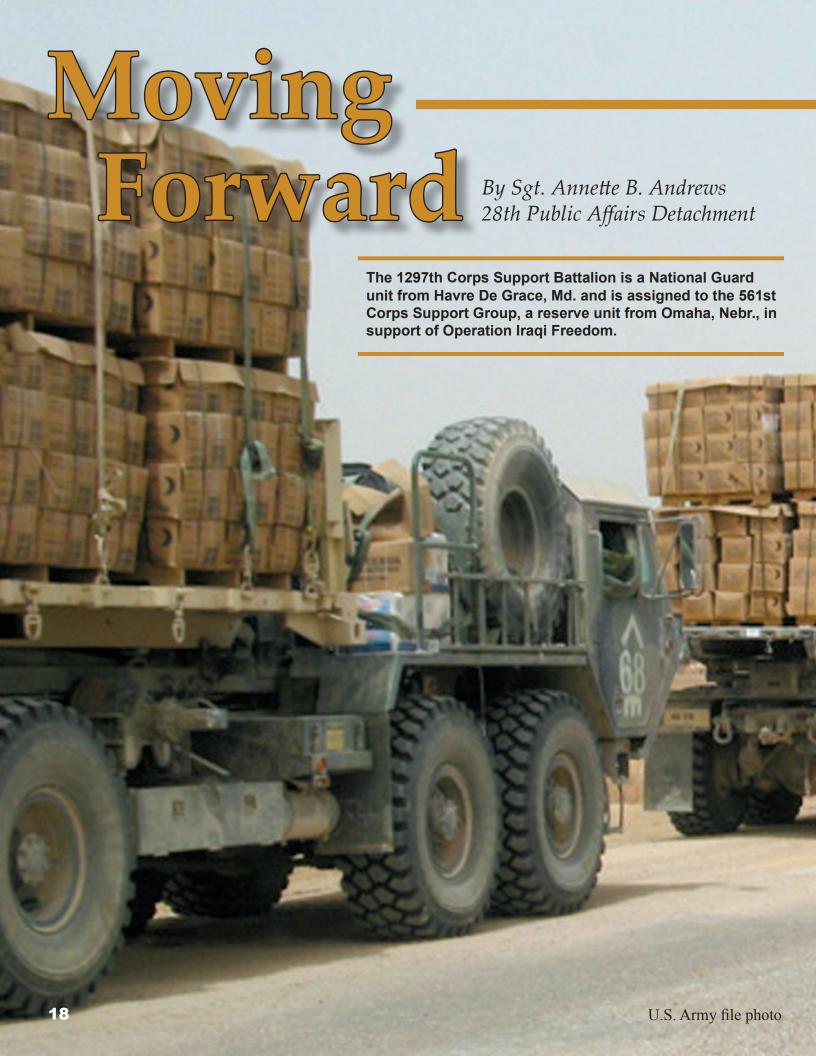
Most team members have backgrounds in the signal or intelligence communities, and since there is no direct path to get this job, most of the people are recruited or apply for the job, said Scholl. The unit looks for a person with strong computer skills and the ability to think analytically, as well as the ability to assess information, said Scholl.

The unit is deployable and has been deployed for a few weeks at a time. The unit's first real mission was in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks. The unit found that a lot of the information used against the United States was found on the web.

The most interesting part of the unit is the ability to have an effect on the Soldiers right now, said Scholl. Another Interesting thing is being able to think like the enemy, said Jones. That prepares them for missions.

When the unit has a mission they go through four steps. They start by searching military and civilian websites for key words that may lead to critical information. Then they categorize any information they find to prepare it for analysis. When they analyze the information they decide if it can fit together like a puzzle to form a clear picture terrorists could use to plan attacks. If the unit decides the information poses a threat they prepare a report and send it up the chain of command for further review.

The Maryland National Guard unit is currently the model for the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve and Air Force Reserve JWRAC units, said Caciappo. Since the formation of JWRAC there has been a major improvement on what is being released on the web, said Jones.



1297th CSB helps in Iraq

AL ASAD, Iraq, Feb. 23, 2005 — As the sun sets and the temperature drops, it becomes difficult to tell the difference between murky fog and sand blowing across the vacant desert for Soldiers on the Jordanian fuel run mission in northwestern Iraq.

"I tell you it's tough stuff. It's not a fun life," said Maj. Randell C. Gaston, deputy support operations officer, 561st Corps Support Group. "It's all quick decisions that they have to make."

Running supplies under the cover of darkness from one country into a combat zone is dangerous enough, but adding to the load and delivering it in less time than initially designed is almost unheard of, unless you are a soldier in the 1297th Corps Support Battalion, 561st Corps Support Group.

"What was once a four-day push now takes two or three days with increased benefits for those on the road," said Capt. Christopher T. Griffiths, battalion S2 and S3.

Throw in a rest stop, refueling point and a faster turnaround for three teams of support troops, who are now converted into combat fighters.

A team of experienced Soldiers simplified the process to increase the amount of supplies arriving across the Iraqi border from Jordan, Griffiths stated.

The strategy was to synchronize the camp called Korean Village, which is three hours from the Jordanian border, with Al Asad, eight hours or more east of Korean Village.

In those evening hours bathed in the peculiar luminosity of twilight, a team of 33 soldiers gear up 10 vehicles to begin the trek that can last as long as 13 hours, depending on road conditions, to get to Korean Village from the general supply hub, known as Al Asad.

These teams, Chevron One through Three, live and breathe the combat logistics patrol way of life, indicated Griffiths. With ballistic goggles, a cover to keep from breathing in dust and loaded weapons among their gear, "they escort the Jordanian truck drivers to Korean Village," he explained.

Each vehicle and its driver must go through a search and inspection before hitting the road with the Chevron teams.

"Soldiers search for contraband and inspect trucks for being road worthy. Trucks that don't pass inspection are turned away. "There is nothing more frightening than sitting with a broken-down vehicle; just waiting to get hit by insurgents," Griffiths said. "Safety is the main factor to receiving supplies."

He went on to explain that one way to reduce risks is to give the soldiers some downtime, and it works like this: Chevron Three gets three days of rest, recovery and mission planning while Chevron One drives the mission to Korean Village.

At the village, Chevron One has the opportunity to rest and refuel before escorting full tankers back to the support hub, thanks to Chevron Two.

Chevron Two, the team stationed on Korean Village for a 15-day rotation, escorts the truck drivers to Trebil, on the Jordanian border, where they leave the first set and pick up another set of trucks and drivers.

"It's there, at Trebil, that the search and inspection turns up the most contraband before heading back to Korean Village," Griffiths said.

Once back within the village compound, Chevron One resumes the mission and escorts the truckers into Al Asad.

Breaking it down, "One team drives the village mission for 15 days and the two other teams spend one month on the GSH (Al Asad); then they rotate out," Griffiths said, who hails from Middleburg, Pa.

Before the 1297th Corps Support Battalion arrived on station, the Marines were moving 350,000 gallons of fuel every four days and 400 trucks each month. No water and no other supplies were transported.

Now after building on the lessons learned by the Marines, the 1297th Corps Support Battalion transports about 600,000 gallons of fuel every two or three days and 1,200 trucks a month through their area of operations, supplying mainly the Marine expeditionary forces, stated Griffiths.

They've been retasked to bring in all classes of supplies to include bottled water, meals ready to eat, medical supplies, sodas and toilet paper. Success means getting the supplies to the outlying forward operating bases.

"By the time it's all said and done, they will have set the standard on how it's done," Gaston commented.

The Modularization

of the Army

Story by Pfc. Beverly Stanley

he Army has undergone many organizational changes throughout its history, and it is in the middle of one of the largest ones now as it transforms to fit a more modular design.

Although adapting to the new structure will cause many changes in the organization of Maryland units, making those changes is important, said Brig. Gen. Edward A. Leacock, the Assistant Adjutant General, Maryland Army National Guard.

"It's one of those things that we have to do, because with world dynamics and terrorist threats, we have to adapt ourselves to be ready to address all those threats that are coming towards the United States and our way of life," said Leacock.

The Maryland Army National Guard is scheduled to complete the change to a modular structure by the end of 2007 as it mirrors the transformation of the Army Divisions from large units of manpower to smaller more concentrated units that increase the Army's readiness for deployment. The changes are the largest the entire Army has seen in decades.

"If you step back and think about it, this is one of the most significant changes the Army has undergone since, say the 60's, with the Reorganization of the Army Division actions," said Col. Rickey Smith, the director of The Army's Future Center within Training and Doctrine Command.

The new structure of the Army Command system descends from the Units for Employment x, which take the place of Division Headquarters. Each UEx will control several Units of Action and each UA, called a Brigade Combat Team, will be organized as either a standard maneuver brigade or a supporting brigade. Standard maneuver brigades will follow one of three patterns – infantry, heavy, or Stryker – and supporting brigades will have standard headquarters elements but variable subordinate units to fill one of five roles: maneuver enhancement, aviation, fires, sustainment, or reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition.

Moving to the modular design will mean a complete reorganization of current units to fit the new structure, which is designed to prepare the Army to face new capabilities of opposing forces.

"We've got to create units that are more relevant for combatant commanders because they have to be agile, they have to be adaptive, and they have to be versatile," said Smith.

According to Leacock, one thing that will not change with the modular structuring of the command is the commitment to Soldiers.

"My focus is when we do this transformation that the Soldier is taken care of, clear down to the private," said Leacock. "I just ask the Soldiers to be patient; understand where we're going. If you have some ideas to help us out, feed them up to the chain of command and we'll take serious consideration of all ideas, because everybody is in this fight together."

Information for Guard members

Are Well getting the most money for college?

Ask a group of Guard members why they joined and chances are most of them will say it was for help with college tuition costs. The education benefits offered by the Maryland Army National Guard give Soldiers the chance to get a higher education at little or no cost to them, but the process of accessing those benefits, and getting the most out of them, can seem daunting since there is a wide range of programs available.

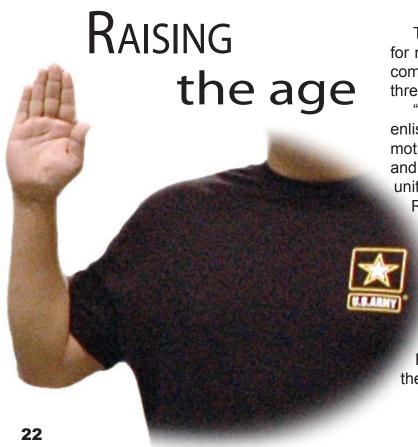
At the heart of the education benefits, however, are three programs that work together to pay most or all of a Soldier's education costs.

The first way Guard members can reduce their college costs is to use the State Tuition Waiver program. In this program, participating colleges reduce their tuition rates for Guard members by up to 50 percent at the time of registration. Soldiers must present a State Tuition Waiver Letter signed by their commander and their military identification card when they pay for classes to take advantage of the discount.

Another useful tool is the Federal Tuition Assistance program, which can pay up to 100 percent of tuition depending on a school's per credit hour cost. The application process for the FTA program has recently been simplified and requests are now processed online at www.virtualarmory.com and no longer require a commander's signature.

The third program is the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which pays qualifying students a certain amount each month based on how many classes they are taking in a semester and other factors. Soldiers who have completed their Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training can take advantage of this program whether they are attending school full or part time.

The Maryland Guard offers several ways to help Soldiers pay for college. For help navigating the process, Soldiers should contact the Education Service Office by calling (410) 576-1499 or by sending an email to mdng_education@md.ngb.army.mil.



The U.S. Army increased the maximum age for non-prior service enlistments into the reserve component from less than 35 to less than 40 in a three-year test program that began March 18.

"Raising the maximum age for the non-prior enlistment expands the recruiting pool, provides motivated individuals an opportunity to serve, and strengthens the readiness of the Reserve units," said Lt. Col. Roy Steed, Chief of the

Recruiting and Policy Branch under the Army G1 (Personnel). "Past experience has shown that older recruits generally make excellent Soldiers based on maturity, motivation, loyalty and patriotism," he said.

Any person who is less than 40 years old and is interested in joining the National Guard should contact the Recruiting and Retention office at 1-800-GO-GUARD, or visit the website at www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com.

ENLISTED EXCELLENCE

NCO of the Year



her the Year



Name:

Spc. David Sabat

Military Job:

Combat Medic

Unit:

F Company, 115th Infantry Regiment (Anti-Armor)



Cpl. John P. Jones, of C Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, attaches detonation cord to a bangalore explosive during demolitions training at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. Jones and other Soldiers were training to use explosives as part of the Army's new multi-functional Squad concept which trains infantry Soldiers on additional skills such as advanced markmanship and demolitions.